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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1909.

Against the 2-cent Fare.

The 2-cent fare legislation of the  
group of States centering about St. Louis  
and Kansas City has been given a se-  
rious judicial setback by the adverse de-  
cision of Judge McPherson, of the United  
States District Court, on the Missouri  
statutes reducing freight rates and pas-  
senger fares. It will be remembered that  
when application was originally made to  
him for an injunction against the 2-cent  
rate, Judge McPherson was not satis-  
fied with the ex parte showing made by  
the railroads, and at his instance the  
lower rate was put into effect experimen-  
tally. It has now been tried for more  
than a year in Missouri, and the judg-  
ment of the court is that it fails to yield  
an adequate return upon the intrastate in-  
vestment. On this point Judge McPherson  
says:

"The passenger earnings under the 2-cent  
fare of 1907, allowing nothing for extra cost  
of operation, gave no return whatever to the  
St. Louis, St. Louis and Hamilton, Kansas City,  
Union and Springfield, and the Great Western  
lines. The other companies will have the follow-  
ing: St. Louis and San Francisco, between 3 and 4 per  
cent; the Santa Fe, between 4 and 5 per cent; the  
Kansas City Southern, a small fraction over 2 per  
cent; the Missouri, Kansas and Texas between 2  
and 3 per cent; the Burlington, between 3 and 4 per  
cent. But all this is arrived at by allowing no  
extra cost of service. But to add the extra cost for  
weight and passenger, there are no earnings over  
expenses. This is confiscation under the Constitu-  
tion."

The attorneys for the State maintain  
that it is not fair to assume that the  
intrastate service is more expensive than  
through business, and they object also to  
the method adopted by Judge McPherson  
for ascertaining the proportion of the to-  
tal value of the railroad property upon  
which the 2-cent intrastate rate must  
yield a reasonable return. But as to these  
matters, Judge McPherson accepted the  
best available railroad and judicial  
authorities, and his decision rests upon  
a most careful consideration of all the  
factors involved. Among the facts brought  
out in the course of the hearing was that  
the increase in traffic due to the lower  
rate was less than 3 per cent, and the  
increase in revenue through the abolition  
of passes was less than 1 per cent.

The opinion, though it may be contested  
by the State, is expected by counsel for  
the railroads to lead to the eventual over-  
turn of the 2-cent rate in the neighbor-  
ing States of Nebraska, South Dakota,  
Oklahoma, and Minnesota. On receipt of  
the news of the decision, the Kansas  
senate made an adverse report on a 2-cent  
fare bill which had already passed the  
house. Most of the Southern States have  
retreated from their attitude fa-  
vorable to the 2-cent rate, though it is  
still in force in Virginia. In Pennsylvania  
the 2-cent rate has been judicially an-  
nulled. In New York it was vetoed by  
Gov. Hughes, and is now, we believe, un-  
der consideration of the public service  
commission. It is still in force in Ohio,  
Michigan, and some other States. On the  
whole, the case of the 2-cent fare, save  
in thickly settled portions of the  
country, where it has been voluntarily  
established, appears to be going against  
the legislative theory that 2 cents a  
mile is a profitable charge for local pas-  
senger traffic.

Mr. Taft has announced his intention  
to visit Alaska next summer. Naturally,  
there is some curiosity to know who is  
to be official lid-sitter during his ab-  
sence from home base.

Lame Duck in Name Only.

Lo, the lame duck! Ever in our midst,  
to-day his name is legion. May his tribe  
decrease.

In no spirit of disparagement do we use  
the term "lame duck" in referring to our  
late public servants, now particularly in  
eclipse. By no manner of means.

We esteem the "lates" yet too highly  
—hold them in too fond and affectionate  
memory—to think or speak of them dis-  
paragingly. Ours is not a flexible friend-  
ship regulated by official status, or  
warmed into life by the rising sun, only  
to wane with the evening tide. Perish  
the thought! That sort of thing is re-  
served for the kow-towing brigade for-  
ever with us—those mercurial folk who  
so quickly drop the old and adopt the  
new, kaleidoscope though the changes  
be, and whose appearance prostrate at  
the feet of the mighty gives such zest to  
the passing show.

On behalf of countless discerning peo-  
ple who appraise men for what they  
have done and what they really are, and  
not by the post of honor they happen to  
occupy, we tender these so-called lame  
ducks, the exes now so numerously with  
us or gracefully making their exit, assur-  
ance of our continued interest in and en-  
doring solicitude for them, one and all.

Whether in the Cabinet, in Congress,  
or in any manner otherwise known to  
fleeing fame under the administration  
just gone, these late public servants have  
filled their positions with zeal and  
ability. Although temporarily out of  
mind and lost to view in the hurly-burly  
transformation from old to new, their  
records will live. They have outworked  
for their successors to do. Good Ameri-  
can citizens they were, and are, every

man of them; patriots who played their  
parts well on this national stage, and  
who are not dwarfed an iota, as a mat-  
ter of fact, in the change from public to  
private life.

It is but a change of caste in the great  
governmental drama enacted here at  
Washington—a drama old as the nation,  
but ever new and full of charm, with  
comedy and pathos, light and shadow,  
sorrow and gladness, sighs and smiles  
intermingled in equal or unequal parts.  
But the predominant element in this  
drama is the splendid example given  
of faithful, loyal, intelligent, and pa-  
triotic duty-doing and devotion to the  
country's interest as the incumbents of  
the roles see the light and as they come  
and go. That is the American side of this  
passing show—the side worth while.

Lame duck, forsooth! There is none  
such. He exists only in fancy—only in  
the fancy of those who live in the whirl  
and swirl, whose vision does not pene-  
trate the glitter and glamour, and who  
do not see and estimate things as they  
actually are. The so-called lame duck of  
to-day may find the kow-towing brigade  
playing ring-around-a-rosy with him in  
days to come. Who knows? Meanwhile,  
we hail him as he goes; greet him as he  
from our parts.

"President Taft is not quite the mess-  
age of his predecessor," says the  
Johnstown Democrat. For lack of in-  
formation, we neither affirm nor deny.  
We prefer to wait and see.

The Tale of Two Navy Yards.

Just before leaving office Truman H.  
Newberry, Secretary of the Navy, in pur-  
sue of his plans for the introduction  
of business methods in the manufacturing  
end of the naval establishment, issued  
an order closing the repair shops at the  
New Orleans and Pensacola navy yards,  
directing that the machinery be placed in  
condition for preservation, and that the  
buildings be boarded up. The dry docks  
at each station were to remain as before,  
and a marine guard was to care for the  
property. Comparatively little repair  
work had been done at either of these  
yards, and the expense of their mainte-  
nance was out of all proportion to the  
value of the output. For example, in  
1907 the output of the New Orleans yard  
was but a trifle more than \$1,000, while  
the cost of maintenance was over \$97,000.

Newberry, before the House Committee  
on Naval Affairs, stated that the expense  
of keeping open the yards at New Orleans  
and Pensacola "exceeds the value that  
the government gets from them." He was  
unable to see that any considerable  
amount of work could be given them in  
the future. He did not think they should  
be abandoned, but was sure they could  
be maintained at much less cost than at  
present. Yet we find in the naval approp-  
riation bill for the next fiscal year the  
following items, in addition to the lump  
sums for maintenance and repairs:

"Navy yard, Pensacola, Fla.—Remodeling build-  
ing No. 23, \$5,000; to repair life range and wharf,  
\$5,000; in all, \$10,000."

"Navy station, New Orleans, La.—Levee im-  
provements and grading, \$5,000; in all, \$5,000."

President Taft had not been in the  
White House two days before an impos-  
ing Congressional delegation from Louisi-  
ana and Florida called upon him to com-  
plain of Mr. Newberry's order. What  
happened at the interview is thus de-  
scribed by the Washington correspondent  
of the New Orleans Picayune:

"Senator Foster stated that the action of Sec-  
retary Newberry came as a severe blow, because  
a few weeks ago he expressed his willingness for  
the New Orleans yard to continue, and agreed that  
the dock could accommodate the mosquito fleet, if not  
the Dreadnaughts now building. He discussed the  
legal aspect of the case, taking the position that  
Congress had outlined a policy to be pursued to  
ward the two stations by appropriating money for  
their maintenance, and he declared emphatically  
that it would be unwise for the executive branch  
to antagonize the legislative policy. He therefore  
asked that the order be at once rescinded."

"Senator McPherson expressed very strongly  
his opinion of the action, declaring that the  
loss of Congress cannot be set aside or nullified  
by Executive order, and he protested also  
against the diversion by the Secretary of the Navy  
of funds from any station to another without the  
consent of Congress. Senator Tillman likewise  
expressed a decided and emphatic protest along  
the same line, to which the President listened with  
close attention."

"After all had spoken, President Taft stated  
that he was impressed by the seriousness of the sit-  
uation, but at the beginning of his administration  
he determined that his Cabinet should share the  
responsibility with him, and therefore he would  
not make any promises until their views or recom-  
mendations had been presented."

A similar presentation of the case for  
expedient of the public funds was  
made to Secretary Meyer, and on  
Monday the obnoxious order bearing the  
signature of Mr. Newberry was revoked.  
Thus have the true relations of the Execu-  
tive and Congress been re-established.  
It is now a criminal offense to expend  
more than the sum appropriated by Con-  
gress; it ought also to be a criminal  
offense to expend less. Mr. Newberry was  
guilty of trying to save some thousands  
of dollars to the Treasury, in spite of  
Congressional extravagance. Evidently  
there is to be no more such foolishness.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of a  
copy of the Congressional Record bear-  
ing date of March 8. Thanks, of course,  
—but does the Record not know the re-  
cess bell has been sounded?

Unusual Mr. Jeffries.

Mr. James J. Jeffries is, we think, some-  
thing new under the sun in the eyes of  
that not at all inconsiderable if possibly  
reprehensible fraction of the population  
of this glorious land that worships with  
varying degrees of enthusiasm at the  
shrine of professional pugilism.

Mr. Jeffries is a cheerful gladiator of  
latter-day persuasion, who has battled his  
way right up to the very front pew in  
the temple of prize fighting and is the  
most illustrious living example toward  
which the high priests thereof point with  
unanimity and unmistakable pride. He is  
the bright and particular star around  
which revolves the entire universe of  
things fistically strenuous, and the ratio  
of his personal importance to that of his  
most distinguished and esteemed con-  
temporaries is at least sixteen to one, if  
not more so.

That is to say, of course, theoretically  
all this is true. As a cold and prosaically  
practical fact, Mr. Jeffries is not happy,  
and fears mayhap the days of his pictu-  
resque glory are dawning to a close, and  
that the hard-won renown now techni-  
cally his may be snatched away from  
him soon, and that by an undesirable  
person the most anciently honorable and

interesting ancestor of whom was a dark-  
skinned party of the name of Ham.

Ordinarily, this would not strike us as a  
topic of compelling importance. Whether  
the heavy-weight championship of the  
world pugniculous stays in America does  
not keep us awake at nights; and the  
here and yonder disturbing thought that  
it may pass into the keeping of a "cullud  
pusson" in nowise interrupts the orderly  
progress of either our dreaming or our  
thoughts awake. These sordid things  
agitate us not at all. But we do contend,  
and therein lies the sum total of our  
growing admiration for Mr. Jeffries, that  
an acknowledged and undisputed pug-  
ilistic champion who admits he may lose  
his proud title to a foe yet without the  
citadel of his proud estate, in any or  
every conceivable circumstance, is a hero  
about whose manly form we may even  
drape Old Glory, and not be ashamed or  
impelled to protest our self-respect  
simultaneously.

And so, with due mindfulness of the  
proprieties and the niceties of our high  
calling, and its more or less intimate re-  
lations to the moral and mental uplift  
of humanity in general and our immedi-  
ate constituency in particular, we wish  
Mr. Jeffries might well, in case he de-  
cides to tempt fate and cast discretion to  
the winds in respect of a trial of prowess  
between himself and this "cullud pusson"  
aforesaid, whose name escapes us for the  
moment. In short, we are pleased to  
give Mr. Jeffries the benefit of his own  
unparalleled and extraordinarily amazing  
doubt as to the outcome, and hope that  
in the event of the encounter presumably  
pending he may "lik" his antagonist "to  
a frazzle," and retain upon his own be-  
hoof and benefit every laurel wreath that  
now encircles his noble and ruggedly  
classic brow.

The governor-elect of Georgia says  
there will be no parade, no brass bands,  
no gay decorations and things at his in-  
auguration. Doubtless his views are en-  
tirely to great respect, but we think,  
nevertheless, there should be scant rea-  
son to fear a blizzard in Georgia next  
June.

"A woman cannot talk when she is  
smoking cigarettes," says the Des Moines  
Tribune, dogmatically. Why, then, should  
some people torture themselves with the  
fear that cigarette smoking may become  
a widespread fad among women?

"My favorite article of diet is chicken,"  
says Mr. Hoke Smith. Occasionally, of  
course, it is possible to determine on  
what meat some of our Caesars feed that  
they have grown so great.

"What this country needs now is a  
Sunshine Club," says the Boston Globe.  
As a sort of antidote for the Big Slick  
infection, so to speak.

A large number of people are naming  
their babies William Howard Taft now-  
adays. This is all right, of course, even  
if the present-day supply of adult Gro-  
ver Cleverlands is not everything it might  
be.

Some of the Dixie papers appear to  
think it requires a profound knowledge  
of higher mathematics to figure out just  
precisely how much of a "Southern mem-  
ber" of the Cabinet Mr. Dickinson  
will be.

It is to be regretted that Talemone Cruger  
Smith-Cuyler, of New York, fell off his  
horse during the inauguration day pa-  
rade. Perhaps this would not have hap-  
pened had he been wearing his hyphen  
amidships at the moment, and not so far  
to starboard.

"Hope all the fishin' worms weren't  
frozen," says the Baltimore Sun. Same  
here.

Sooner or later, however, it is entirely  
possible young King Alfonso may succeed  
in breaking his neck.

Almost an entire week of Taft, and  
not a firebrand yet!

Mr. Roosevelt will carry a photograph  
along with the other things in that Afri-  
can outfit. Has the man no mercy wait-  
even in his heart for wild beasts?

The Jacksonville Times-Union insists  
that the "possum" is of ancient and re-  
spectable lineage. Well, well! We have  
no quarrel with the "possum's" honorable  
ancestors. Mayhap they were all right  
in their day, but he is a sad degenerate,  
nevertheless.

"The advance guard of spring appears  
to have arrived," says the Nashville  
American. He surely must have been  
cleverly disguised when he made this  
stop.

Mr. Taft says he has "an undiminished  
admiration for Mr. Roosevelt." So has  
Mr. Harriman, however—undiminished  
and undiminishable.

"A crank is a very useful citizen,"  
says the Wall Street Journal. To be  
sure; and if his side wins somewhere along  
the line he may become quite a states-  
man.

A grave and solemn Congressman re-  
cently expatiated at some length in the  
House upon "the law of the jungle."  
How hard it was for some of them to  
keep the former President off their minds.

We have a good deal higher regard  
for the recently invented featherless  
chicken than the lately reported breast-  
less duck.

Yale's Cabinet Place.

From the Waterbury (Conn.) American.  
It looked for a while as if there would  
be no Yale man in the Taft Cabinet.  
Considering the strong coteries of Yale  
men with whom President Roosevelt, of  
Harvard, has buttressed himself officially  
and considering how strong and loyal a  
Yale man Judge Taft is, it is somewhat  
strange that this peculiarity of the com-  
ing Cabinet has escaped general comment.

The Yale man who is said to be slated  
for Secretary of the Treasury is Franklin  
MacVeagh, of the class of '92. Mr. Mac-  
Veagh is the embodied proof that the  
same man may be scholarly, esthetic and  
idealistic, and yet be a first-class practi-  
cal business man.

Fair Woman's Slave.

From the Drapery Times.

But for the inventive faculty of man in  
the matter of feminine clothing, how  
would fair woman exist or enjoy life?

No One Objected.

From the Chicago Tribune.  
Amid the excitement of the hour Uncle  
Stephen, of Wisconsin, managed to slip  
in unobserved.

Democracy Awakened.

From the New York Tribune.  
We owe to the Roosevelt administra-  
tion a rebirth of the true spirit of de-  
mocracy.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

INSPIRATION.

The landlord wants his rent.  
His agent has sent  
To talk to him.  
The poet never minds  
That sort of thing he finds  
Inspiring.

The butcher wants his pay.  
Won't wait another day.  
The grocer's string.  
But still the poet sings.  
He finds these little things  
Inspiring.

As to a Friend.

"How he does love to parade."  
"Yes; from the air he puts on, one  
would think it took him several hours  
to pass a given point."

The Big Game.

"All the world's a stage."

"A ball park, you mean."

More Modern.

"But the spelling bee is so old-  
fashioned."

"Well, we might have a simplified spell-  
ing bee."

Got a Cold.

The gentle spring, they say,  
Is nearly dry.  
I know I feel that way.  
Kerchle! Kerchoo!

When Women Rule.

"Why did she refuse the judgeship?"

"Says she doesn't consider ermine be-  
coming to her style of beauty."

Attractions.

"How to keep boys on the farm. That's  
the question."

"It's simple enough," declared Uncle  
Gosh Hemlock. "Put an auto track in  
the meadow, a ball park in the corn field,  
and continuous vaudeville in the barn."

The First Harbinger.

"Spring is in the air."

"Why do you say that?"

"The fat liars at the grocery have be-  
gun preliminary practice."

COST OF EDUCATION.

Plea for Larger Expenditures on  
the Common Schools.

From an address by Charles W. Eliot.

The expenditure per pupil in the com-  
mon schools of the United States is alto-  
gether insufficient. The average expendi-  
ture per pupil for the whole school years  
in the United States was in 1907 \$21.14,  
or \$19.14 for the year ending June 30, 1908,  
but this expenditure varies very much in  
the different divisions of the country.

The cost of urban public school systems  
has been materially increased during the  
last twenty years by the institution of  
four new kinds of school—the manual  
training school, the mechanic arts high  
school, the evening school, and the vaca-  
tion school. All these branches of the  
public school organization were introduced  
into our country by private benevolence,  
and have only gradually been adopted  
into public school systems. The manual  
training school, the mechanic arts high  
school, and the vacation school are un-  
doubtedly permanent institutions of public  
education.

Evening schools may or may not prove  
permanent. At present they remedy defi-  
ciencies of education in young people who  
are of foreign birth, or who have too  
mechanic arts high school to support them-  
selves or their parents. If public education  
is universal and thoroughly effective, the  
evening school would not be so much  
needed. Its duration as an institution will  
therefore depend on the rate at which  
public school systems improve in effi-  
ciency.

All these new branches of public in-  
struction are somewhat expensive addi-  
tions to the ordinary day schools, the  
mechanic arts high school being particu-  
larly expensive, as well as very useful.  
The utility of manual training for city  
children has been thoroughly demon-  
strated, and there can be no doubt that  
it is a costly form of instruction  
which will be maintained and developed.  
The acceptance of these four new kinds of  
schools as schools properly to be sup-  
ported by taxation illustrates strikingly  
the readiness of the American population  
to undertake new burdens for the educa-  
tion of its youth.

Every educational improvement of the  
past thirty years has been costly, but  
every one has justified itself in the eyes  
of the taxpayers, as well as very useful.  
It is not one would now be  
recalled, and the total result encourages  
the expectation that large new expendi-  
tures would commend themselves to the  
people at the start, and the end would  
prove to be both profitable and humane  
sense.

The expenditure in those parts of our  
country where it is now smallest ought to  
be raised as rapidly as possible to the  
level of those regions where it is now  
greatest, and in those regions where the  
expenditure is now most liberal it ought  
to be doubled as soon as possible.

Stars and Bars in Washington.

Washington letter to Boston Transcript.

Representative Ernest W. Roberts, of  
Massachusetts, called the attention of  
Washington newspaper men, on the day  
before inauguration, to a Confederate flag  
flying from a house on fashionable Con-  
necticut avenue, which is in one of the  
most aristocratic residence sections of  
Washington. Thousands of private houses  
were decorated with the American flag,  
both inside and out. Nearly all the houses  
in Connecticut avenue had large flags  
flying in the breeze on the outside, and  
this one lone Confederate flag attracted  
considerable attention and much unfavor-  
able comment. One large department  
store down town had a large electric sign  
which read: "One country, one flag."

A grave and solemn Congressman re-  
cently expatiated at some length in the  
House upon "the law of the jungle."  
How hard it was for some of them to  
keep the former President off their minds.

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Fair Woman's Slave.

From the Drapery Times.

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the matter of feminine clothing, how  
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Amid the excitement of the hour Uncle  
Stephen, of Wisconsin, managed to slip  
in unobserved.

Democracy Awakened.

From the New York Tribune.  
We owe to the Roosevelt administra-  
tion a rebirth of the true spirit of de-  
mocracy.

## WASHINGTON CHAT.

By THE SPECTATOR.

The office of secretary to the President  
has become quite as important as that of  
a Cabinet officer. Formerly it was a mere  
clerical position, hardly more than a sine-  
cure, which was given to some relative or  
friend of the President, and as the coun-  
try has grown and the duties and respon-  
sibilities of the President have increased  
his need for a careful, well-informed, and  
loyal adviser near at hand is limitless.  
Congress made the first appropriation for  
a secretary to the President in Pierce's  
administration, and the office has been  
maintained uninterruptedly ever since, its  
designation being changed when its salary  
was increased from private secretary  
to secretary to the President.

This position is more exacting and in-  
fluential than little implies. Its incumb-  
ent is the most overworked employee of  
the government, and his office is singu-  
larly difficult since he must act as a buffer  
between the President and the importun-  
ing seekers after everything under the  
sun—office, influence, social favors, what-  
not? To be really useful he must have  
the manners of a Chesterfield, the accom-  
modations of a Crichton, the power of a  
Messer.

While the position of secretary to the  
President has always been a difficult one,  
it was not until President Lincoln's ad-  
ministration that this official began to  
figure prominently in the history of the  
country, which was one of his most noted  
characteristics. Mr. Lincoln recognized  
the possibilities of this office and sought  
to find a man equal to the demands that  
would be made upon him. Andrew Jack-  
son Donelson, of Tennessee, who had  
been United States Minister to Prussia,  
from 1846 to 1849, and the unsuccessful  
candidate for the Vice Presidency in 1856,  
had been Andrew Jackson's secretary  
through both his terms as President, and  
had so impressed his personality on all  
the public men who knew him that, al-  
though he was a strong Southern partisan,  
and had been arrested, tried and ac-  
quitted for treason, President Lincoln en-  
deavored to persuade him to become his  
secretary, but to no purpose. His sym-  
pathy with the confederacy debarred him  
from working loyally, and subsequently  
he was refused the office. Mr. Lincoln  
accordingly appointed John C. Nichol-  
ay, with whom was associated John  
Hay. Both of these men, then in the  
heyday of their youth, served their chief  
loyally and loyally, and subsequently  
collaborated in writing a life of him  
that will always remain a standard.

When the assassination of President  
Lincoln made Andrew Johnson President,  
Mr. A. Browning, a prominent private  
secretary, and Mr. Johnson's private  
secretary, but he died before he had  
been a year in office and was succeeded by  
the President's son, Col. Robert John-  
son, the former colonel of a Tennessee  
regiment. Col. Johnson was succeeded  
by Robert M. Douglas, a son of Stephen  
A. Douglas, who was a colonel of militia  
in the civil war, and in later years a  
member of the Supreme Court of North  
Carolina, and a potent factor in the  
politics of that State. Mr. Douglas was  
only twenty when he accepted the post  
of secretary to the President, but he was  
a brilliant and talented young man and  
fully equal to all that was expected of  
him, for while it is recorded that young  
Douglas was President Grant's secretary,  
he was, as a matter of fact, only an un-  
derstudy, the President's most dependable  
aid being Horace Porter, his warm and  
loyal friend and confidant, and whose  
official designation was executive  
secretary, and who was the Pooh Bah of  
President Grant's first administration.

In President Grant's second term Mr.  
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